

Introduced by Senator Alquist

February 23, 2006

Senate Resolution No. 24—Relative to the Republic of Cyprus.

1 WHEREAS, California first welcomed immigrants from
2 Cyprus in the early part of the 20th century; and

3 WHEREAS, Cypriot Americans thereafter settled in
4 communities around the metropolitan areas of Los Angeles and
5 San Francisco and in the agricultural centers of the Sacramento
6 Delta, and the San Joaquin and San Bernardino Valleys; and

7 WHEREAS, Today Cypriot Americans are contributing and
8 prospering in business, in academia, and in various professions in
9 California and across the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, Cyprus itself has been forcibly divided for more
11 than 30 years by the Turkish invasion of the island in 1974; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States has expressed consistent
13 support for the reunification of Cyprus based on the rule of law
14 and has encouraged efforts toward a resolution that respects the
15 rights of all Cypriots; and

16 WHEREAS, A United Nations-sponsored plan, known as the
17 “Annan Plan,” was put to separate and simultaneous referenda
18 before the two communities of Cyprus on April 24, 2004, and
19 rejected by an overwhelming majority of Greek Cypriots in a
20 free, democratic and fair vote, since it did not sufficiently address
21 their basic concerns; and

22 WHEREAS, Cyprus has taken a large strategic step forward
23 by joining the European Union (EU) in May 2004, and its EU
24 accession is enlarging the scope of cooperation between Cyprus
25 and the United States and will act as a further catalyst for a just
26 settlement of the Cyprus dispute; and

1 WHEREAS, Cyprus, together with other EU partners, took a
2 critical decision in December 2004 to permit Turkey to begin EU
3 accession talks on October 3, 2005, recognizing that Turkey must
4 abide by EU principles, values, and norms and this will
5 significantly contribute to the further development of a secure
6 and economically robust Eastern Mediterranean as well as
7 offering the prospect of providing a new context to resolve the
8 longstanding division of Cyprus; and

9 WHEREAS, The Republic of Cyprus has announced and is
10 implementing a series of economic and other measures to reach
11 across the island's internal division and benefit the Turkish
12 Cypriots living in the northern occupied territory of the country;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Cyprus has as a goodwill gesture unilaterally
15 initiated a program to clear more than 2,300 mines in eight
16 minefields in the buffer zone dividing the island; and

17 WHEREAS, Cyprus is a valued ally in the fight against terror
18 and is expected to join President Bush's Proliferation Security
19 Initiative, an important step to battling the spread of weapons of
20 mass destruction; and

21 WHEREAS, A lasting, just, peaceful, and mutually agreed
22 upon solution to the Cyprus problem would greatly benefit the
23 security and the political, economic, and social well-being of all
24 Cypriots, as well as contribute to improved relations between
25 Greece and Turkey, and would serve United States interests in
26 the region; and

27 WHEREAS, There has long been a strong friendship between
28 the residents of California and the people of the Republic of
29 Cyprus, both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot alike; now,
30 therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California,* That the
32 Senate commends the people of Cyprus for their continued
33 efforts in search of a just resolution of the Cyprus problem and
34 calls on the President and the Congress of the United States to
35 continue our country's historic support for the reunification of
36 Cyprus, while fully respecting that the government of the
37 Republic of Cyprus is the only legitimate sovereign authority for
38 the entire island of Cyprus; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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